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COMIC SHOP NEWS
JENNIFER BLOOD

Blood Feud

Garth Ennis is determined to make the life of a bad guy very unpleasant. During his run on ***The Punisher,*** he chronicled the exploits of a well-armed anti-hero who uses whatever means necessary to mete out justice. Now he's about to put the bad guys in the crosshairs of another well-armed anti-hero who uses whatever means necessary to mete out justice.

Jennifer Blood introduces a character who is a suburban wife and mom by day, and a ruthless vigilante by night. Every day she goes about her daily routine—caring for her kids, maintaining her household, spending time with her husband. But when the rest of the family is asleep, Jennifer heads down to the secret compartment in the basement, tools up with all manner of high-powered weaponry, goes downtown and kills bad guys by the dozen. Then she returns home, jots down her exploits in the pages of a little pink diary with a rabbit on the front, and repeats the routine.

"Garth has an uncanny ability to create compelling characters from scratch," Dynamite president and publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "From ***The Boys*** to ***Preacher***—as well as re-defining an iconic character like ***The Punisher***—Ennis writes unforgettable characters. That's why we're proud to be working with Garth on ***Jennifer Blood.***"

While ***Jennifer Blood*** sounds a bit like a gender-reversal take on ***The Punisher*** (a series that Ennis helmed for several years), Ennis says that's "not really accurate. It's very different in tone—much, *much* lighter. Both characters are vigilantes, but Frank is both totally dedicated to his role and has declared war on all criminals; Jen has a normal life that she has to balance with her extra-curricular activities, and a very specific mission of vengeance on people who've wronged her personally."

What led to the decision to take such a different tone on vigilantism in this new series? "I felt like everything I'd been doing was getting darker and darker; the next year will see ***The Boys*** moving into increasingly grim territory, ***Battlefields*** speaks for itself, I just wrote a ***Crossed*** three-parter to kick off the new monthly, and even ***Wormwood***—which I initially conceived as whimsy—seems to be getting heavier as it goes along," Ennis said." I fancied doing something more light-hearted, more in keeping with some of the stuff I wrote in books like ***Hitman.***"

What makes the no-holds-barred vigilante such a mainstay in comics, when the real world tends to reject vigilantism? "Everyone sees problems needing fixing, frustrations needing resolution, people needing violent removal," Ennis said. "Doesn't matter who you are, *someone's* pissed you off to the point that you've wished some manner of grim fate upon them. The fictional vigilante acts on this particular urge, and gets away with it into the bargain. What could be more attractive than that?

"In real life, of course, it's an absolutely disastrous idea. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the wrong people get hurt, and the vigilante turns out to be some pathetic wretch who really just wants revenge for how miserably his life's turned out.

"Even beyond that, can you imagine actually *being* the Punisher? Never mind the physical risks, the mental stress of what you'd lost and the loss you'd inflicted on others would result in the world's mightiest ever case of PTSD, and you'd end up just blowing your own brains out."

How did the concept for ***Jennifer Blood*** come about? Was Ennis at all influenced by television (and crime fiction's anti-hero, ***Dexter***? "No," Ennis said. "If there were a TV influence, it would be the show ***Weeds***—wherein the lead character is a suburban homemaker who breaks the law to support herself."

So how does a suburban housewife become a well-armed vigilante? Doesn't high-ordnance weaponry require a great deal of revenue? And how does she keep her activities a secret? "All will be revealed," Ennis said. "Jennifer has a very direct way of keeping her family ignorant of her activities—one that real-life mothers might well frown upon..."

Many of Ennis's books seem to take a popular concept to its extreme. He did it with superheroism in ***The Boys***, he did it with urban vigilantism in his ***Punisher*** run. Is Ennis taking a similarly extreme path with ***Jennifer Blood***? "Hard to say," Ennis said. "I just let the story take me where it naturally wants to go.

"I want to make ***Jennifer Blood*** action-packed but still keep the action reasonably effective and stylish. I want the humor to be black, on the one hand—when Jen's gunning people down and cutting their heads off—but quite wry in other circumstances, such as when she's dealing with her family, friends and neighbors. She can be quite a ruthless person at times, but she's very gentle with her family—particularly her husband, whose insecurities she has to assuage by keeping him thinking he's the one running the show."

Frank Castle wears an attention-getting skull-adorned costume; will Jennifer tend to take a more down-to-earth approach regarding her crimefighting garb? "She tends to go for low-key and functional," Ennis said, "but there are moments when she wants people to pay full attention to her. You'll see her make a bit of a splash in #1, at just the right moment."

And why does Jennifer keep that potentially incriminating diary, anyway? "Same reason Marvel used to have Frank keep his war journal: It's an extremely convenient storytelling device," Ennis said. "And in this instance I can have a lot of fun with it, too. Jen has quite a whimsical, slightly distracted prose style that I enjoy writing."

Will Jennifer confront routine thugs, mobsters, murderers, etc., or will she have some more distinctive enemies to deal with? "Jen is up against five brothers with whom she shares an initially undisclosed connection; they're the criminal warlords ruling the underworld of the city she lives in. They have an army of scum at their disposal—which is good, because Jen has a *lot* of bullets at hers!"

Ennis amped up the level of violence during his ***Punisher*** run, and both ***Crossed*** and ***The Boys*** are famous for their ultra-brutality. Can readers look forward to similar levels of mayhem from ***Jennifer Blood?*** "I never think my work is really that violent," Ennis said. "Compared to most mainstream comics it might be, but compared to most mainstream comics, ***Sesame Street*** looks like ***Full Metal Jacket.*** All I do is try to be as honest as possible about the physical effects of violence—which is probably why I'm more comfortable considering my comics alongside film and TV. In this particular case, the book carries a mature readers label. 'Nuff said."

Ennis is joined on ***Jennifer Blood*** by *Adriano Batista.* "He's one of Nick's finds," Ennis said. "I believe he's the regular artist on ***Red Sonja.***" Also working as a part of the team is cover artist *Tim Bradstreet,* whose iconic images of Frank Castle were a mainstay of Ennis's ***Punisher*** run. "That was Nicky's call too." As to whether is cover approach will be similar to his work on ***The Punisher,*** "Tim is best left to his own devices," Ennis said. "Trying to tie him down to specifics just limits him. Let him run free and you always get awesome stuff."

Jennifer Blood #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for February release. Dynamite will include a preview of the book in ***The Boys #49, The Boys #50,*** among other titles. To see more art, visit http://www.csnsider.com/spotlight.htm

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Life With Archie is Jinx-ed

Life With Archie—The Married Life adds a third tale in January with the addition of the future-timeline tale, "Li'l Jinx Grows Up!" The story continues into *Life With Archie #8* in February, an eighty-page issue.

And for those who missed out on the early issues of this superb magazine, you can follow the two alternate-future tales in ***The Married Life Volume 2: Archie Loves Veronica TP*** and ***The Married Life Volume 3: Archie Loves Betty TP***, a pair of 160-page collections of these fascinating tales that explore the complexities of adulthood in the Archieverse. Look for both of them in February.

Forecast for Reign

Remember Doomsday, the monstrous creature responsible for Superman's epic death almost two decades ago? Well, he's on his way back... and he begins his approach in ***Steel #1***, the first chapter of "Reign of Doomsday," produced by the team of *Steve Lyons & Ed Benes*.

In this issue, Doomsday has returned to Metropolis, and Steel is the only hero who can keep him from destroying the city! But how can Steel, a normal human, possibly hope to stop the monster who killed Superman?

The story will continue into February's ***Outsiders #37***, March's ***Justice League of America #55***, and April's ***Superboy #6***, with the fifth chapter appearing in a surprise title that DC is keeping secret for now.

Steel #1 is slated for mid-January release.

Coming Comics—DC in February

First his own action figure, then his own Christmas special – now Larfleeze wants to take over ***Action Comics*** beginning with #898?! Not if Lex Luthor has anything to say about it!

Phil Jimenez joins *Paul Levitz* to launch a Legion Academy arc in ***Adventure Comics #523*** as the rookies learn what it takes to be heroes.

Batman uncovers the secrets of Gotham City's founding fathers and the secrets hidden within the city's foundation in *Tony Daniel's* ***Batman #707***. In a captivating turn of events, The Dark Knight finds that he alone holds the key to stopping the cataclysmic events that loom over Gotham.

The new creative team of *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mark Irwin* make their debut in ***Batman & Robin #20*** with "Dark Knight, White Knight" part 1 of 3, as Dick Grayson and Damian Wayne come face-to-face with what could possibly be the strangest Bat Villain yet. Who is the White Knight, and why is he hell-bent on making Gotham City into Heaven on Earth?

Etrigan the Demon turns against his masters and confronts a twisted, evil incarnation of Ragman with the help of Alfred in *David Finch's* ***Batman: The Dark Knight #3***. Only Batman knows the secret to defeating the demon possessing Ragman – but The Dark Knight is nowhere to be found!

Batman teams up with Batwoman in *Grant Morrison, Yanick Paquette, & Michel Lacombe's* ***Batman Incorporated #4***.

The multiple award-winning creative team of J.H. Williams III and W. Haden Blackman launch the ongoing series ***Batwoman #1*** with the 5-part "Hydrology." Batwoman faces bizarre new challenges in her war against the dark underworld of Gotham and new trials in her personal life as Kate Kane. She quickly finds herself in the deep end facing truths about her past and her future. Who—or what—is stealing children from Gotham's barrio, and for what twisted purpose? Can she train her cousin Bette Kane as her new sidekick? How will she handle dark revelations about her father, Colonel Jacob Kane? How is she dealing with the supposed drowning of her sister, the villain known as Alice? And why is a certain government agency suddenly taking an interest in her?

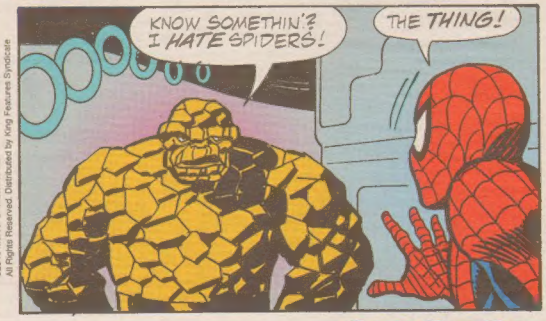
The game-changing "Death of Oracle" storyline continues in ***Birds of Prey #9***. Black Canary finally confronts her inner demons as the Calculator's army and creepy new villainess Mortis take their ultimate revenge on Oracle in a tale that will reverberate throughout Gotham City – and beyond!

Aquawar" breaks out with Aquaman, Mera, Aqualad and a surprise guest star facing off against the terrorist forces of Black Manta and Siren in ***Brightest Day #s 19 & 20***. Their goal? To keep the vast waters of the world from sinking the United States!

Timed to coincide with the launch of the DCU Online MMO game, ***DC Universe Online Legends*** begins its twenty-six issue biweekly run in February. Writers *Tony Bedard & Marv Wolfman* are joined by artists *Howard Porter, Livesay, Adriana Melo, & Norman Lee* as they launch a grand heroes-versus-villains extravaganza featuring some of DC's biggest stars. It begins as Lex Luthor's obsession with destroying Superman reaches fever pitch when he cuts the ultimate Devil's deal with Brainiac... but

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


KNOW SOMETHIN'? I HATE SPIDERS!
THE THING!
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with the shake of a hand, has Luthor consigned humanity to genocide? Then, as the Lex Luthor of a post-apocalyptic future scrambles to escape Brainiac's invasion of Earth, he must gather an army to stop the invasion. Who will he recruit?

For years, Jim Gordon has been haunted by the unsolved case of Gotham's notorious "Peter Pan Killer." Now, armed with new evidence, Gordon is determined to put the case to rest. But as he digs deeper, he'll unearth a shocking discovery about his own past in ***Detective Comics #874*** by *Scott Snyder & Francesco Francavilla.*

DETECTIVE COMICS 874

The Doom Patrol and the Secret Six face off in a rematch beginning in ***Doom Patrol #19*** and continuing into ***Secret Six #30.***

The road to ***Flashpoint*** is paved with good intentions, but the Flash is about to learn the truth behind those good intentions — and the secret of Hot Pursuit—in ***The Flash #11*** by *Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul.*

With The Joker's return to ***Batman*** comics in recent months, it was only a matter of time before Harley Quinn took notice. Will she abandon her Sirens and return to the side of her true love? Find out in *Gotham City Sirens #20!*

WADDA YOU DOIN' HERE, WEB-FACE?
THING--OR BEN GRIMM--OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF--
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I NEED THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HELP--TO RESCUE TWO WOMEN WHO'VE BEEN ABDUCTED.
MY THREE PARDS AIN'T HERE. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DID SPIDER-MAN QUIT THE SUPER-HERO BIZ?
!
stanzlenz @ aol.com
STAN LEE JERRY LIEBER 11-23

PREVIEWS

One Catalog. TONS of Cool Stuff.

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the December issue of *PREVIEWS*!

COVER STORY

MARVEL MINI-MATES & THOR MOVIE FIGURES
Diamond Select Toys
Along with an all-new 38th series of Marvel Minimates (this time featuring characters from the Daredevil-centric event, *Shadowland*), Diamond Select also unveils their two latest Marvel Select Action Figure releases: **Thor** and his evil half-brother **Loki**, as they will appear in the highly anticipated May 2011 Marvel Movie, *THOR*!

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DC UNIVERSE ONLINE LEGENDS #1 & #2
DC Comics
DC Comics and Sony Online Entertainment will soon unleash the eagerly anticipated *DC Universe Online MMO*! So, to lead up to and support this upcoming video game release, DC Comics presents *DC Universe Online Legends*, a 26-week maxi-series revealing the events that lead up to the current setting of the DCU MMO game world!

400+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in February!

CHECK THESE OUT IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE:

Witchfinder: Lost and Gone Forever #1
EC Comics legend John Severin rejoins the *Hellboy* line as 19th-century occult investigator Edward Grey encounters a frontier town harboring bloodthirsty criminals... and supernatural horrors!

Batwoman #1
J.H. Williams III and W. Haden Blackman launch the first arc of the ongoing series the fans demanded! *Batwoman* faces bizarre new challenges in her war against the dark underworld of Gotham — and new trials in her own personal life — in Part 1 of the 5-part "Hydrology!"

Transformers: Infestation #1
The *Infestation* hits the *Transformers* universe in this two-parter written by Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning! Las Vegas is the battleground when Galvatron arrives, and it's up to the Autobots to save the Strip from the Decepticon warlord... *and* the zombie hordes spreading across the city!

Hack/Slash #1 (Ongoing)
Hack/Slash returns in all-new ongoing series by creator Tim Seeley and artist Dan Leister! As Cassie and her partner Vlad hunt a slasher haunting a small town lover's lane, Former Teen Detective Cat Curio searches for the man who put her in a coma... leading to the biggest *Hack/Slash* story yet!

X-Men Legacy #245
In a world where the X-Men never existed, and mutants have been all but hunted to extinction, the few remaining mutants join forces for a last stand. Who are they? And just how far will they go to survive the "Age of X"?! Mike Carey and Clay Mann have the answers!

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What strange occurrence has led the hellacious Etrigan the Demon to Star City? More importantly, will his presence burn the forest to the ground? Find out in ***Green Arrow #9*** by *J.T. Krul, Diogenes Neves, & Vicente Cifuentes.*

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy present a prologue to the "War of the Green Lanterns" in ***Green Lantern #63*** as an unearthly alliance is made, Hal Jordan and Sinestro make a difficult sacrifice, and the power of Parallax grows.

Firestorm guest-stars in ***Green Lantern Corps #57*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.* The Green Lantern Corps is caught in the middle of all out war between Sinestro and his fear mongrels, the Sinestro Corps, against the Weaponer and the Thunderers of Qward. Can Kyle Rayner, John Stewart and the rest of the GL Honor Guard prevent the destruction of a world and save Soranik Natu at the same time?

In ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warrior #7's*** prelude to "War of the Green Lanterns," the battle with Zardor and his Green Lantern Corps reaches its epic conclusion—and events in this issue spin directly into the coming war!

James Robinson, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund launch "The Rise of Eclipso" in ***Justice League of America #54.*** The dark energies that have surrounded Earth are harnessed once more to usher in the great Lord of Darkness! And it looks like the corruption of all mankind starts with the members of the Justice League! When things go dark, which teammate poses the greatest threat to mankind – Obsidian or Jade?

In ***Justice League: Generation Lost #19,*** Justice League International is finally joined by Power Girl! But even with their combined strength, will they be able to track Maxwell Lord down in time to save Blue Beetle? Then, Max Lord's ultimate plan is finally revealed in ***JL:GL #20.*** At last, readers will learn all about Max Lord's origin and the reason he's made it his life's work to snuff out metahumans, aliens, and the entire superhero community.

"Reign of Doomsday," which began in last month's ***Steel #1,*** continues in ***Outsiders #37*** by *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Mick Gray.* In Markovia, the Eradicator struggles in battle against the murder-machine known as Doomsday; it's a fight to the death with the lives of Geo-Force, Katana, the Looker, Halo

and the Olympian all hanging in the balance as we move towards a major summer event.

Red Robin finally combines forces with his former teammates in a 2-issue crossover with that kicks off in ***Red Robin #20*** and continues into ***Teen Titans #92.*** Is there room enough for former Robin Tim Drake and new Robin Damian Wayne on one team?

Someone has set his sights on killing the next generation of heroes, and his latest targets are Robin and Batgirl! Who is this new foe, and how is he connected to some of Superman's deadliest foes? *Nick Spencer & Bernard Chang* reveal all in ***Supergirl #61.***

Superman meets the new Wonder Woman for the first time in ***Superman #708*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Chris Roberson, Eddy Barrows, & J.P. Mayer.* But why can't he shake the feeling that he already knows her? The Man of Steel will have to figure that out later, as the two heroes have their hands full defending Omaha, Nebraska from the evil Keres, a supernatural force determined to rid the town (and the world!) of all Amazons – and they're not too crazy about Kryptonians, either.

DC presents seven original tales by up-and-coming talents in ***Superman 80-Page Giant 2011 #1.*** These stories feature Superman, Superboy, Jimmy Olsen, Supergirl, Krypto, Jor-El, and more.

Cullen Bunn, ChrisCross, & Marc Deering launch the four-part "Sorcerer Kings" in ***Superman/Batman #81.*** Who is that weird Batman on the cover? What has happened to the Earth's sun? And how is it all connected to the mysterious armored figure that Shadowpact discovers in an abandoned factory outside Metropolis?

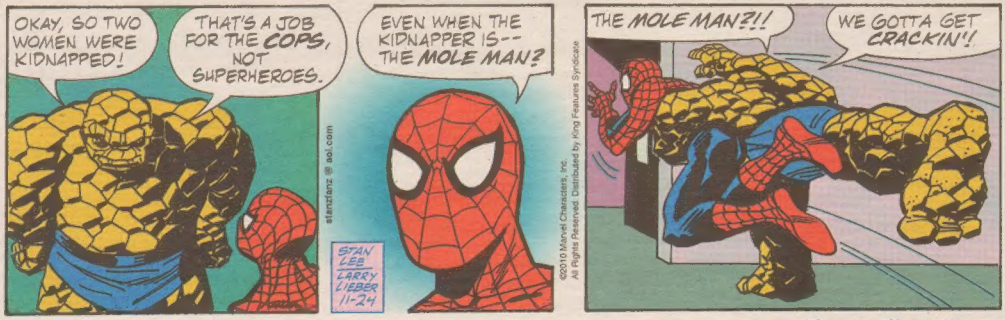
As Dynamo leads a desperate, last-ditch attack on Spider's forces, learn more about what drives the team's mysterious powerhouse in a sequence illustrated by *George Pèrez,* and how the secrets of his past may end up costing the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents their future. *Nick Spencer, CAFU, & Bit* deliver all this in ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #4***—along with a surprising twist ending.

Flashes of a destroyed Themyscira haunt Diana all over again as an Amazon safe house is completely destroyed. The culprits? Cheetah and Silver Swan, who work for the mysterious Morrigan. How does Diana get out of this one? You'll find out in ***Wonder Woman #608*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Phil Hester, Don Kramer, & Jay Leisten.*

In ***Young Justice #1,*** *Art Baltazar & Franco* launch a new series based on the all-new Warner Bros. animated show debuting in January on Cartoon Network.

DC collected volumes (some of which are advance solicited for March and April release) include:

- ***Azrael: Killer of Saints TP,*** collecting ***Azrael #s 7-13.***
- ***Batman and Robin: Batman Reborn TP,*** collecting ***Batman & Robin #s 1-6.***
- ***Batman Beyond: Hush Beyond TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.
- ***Billy Batson & the Magic of Shazam!: Mr. Mind over Matter TP,*** collecting ***Billy Batson #s 7-12.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Green Lantern—Fear Itself,*** an inexpensive reprinting of the *Ron Marz-Brad Parker* 1999 graphic novel.
- ***DC Comics Presents Wonder Woman #1,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 139-142,*** featuring art by *Yanick Paquette.*
- ***DC Comics Presents Batman—Conspiracy #1,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 86-88,*** featuring art by ***Batwoman*** illustrator *J.H. Williams III.*
- ***Detective Comics Classics,*** a compilation of tales from ***Detective #s 377, 384, 385,*** and ***Batman Family #1*** (previously available only in the ***Detective Comics Action Figures Box Set***).
- ***Gotham Central Book One: In the Line of Duty TP,*** collecting ***Gotham Central #s 1-10.***
- ***Justice League: Generation Lost Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***JL:GL #s 1-12.***
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes: The Choice HC,***


OKAY, SO TWO WOMEN WERE KIDNAPPED!
THAT'S A JOB FOR THE COPS, NOT SUPERHEROES.
EVEN WHEN THE KIDNAPPER IS-- THE MOLE MAN?
THE MOLE MAN?!!
WE GOTTA GET CRACKIN'!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-24
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collecting ***Legion of Super-Heroes #s 1-6.***

- ***Showcase Presents The Witching Hour Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first twenty-one issues of the horror anthology series featuring work by *Neal Adams, Alex Toth, Bernie Wrightson, Michael Wm. Kaluta, Wallace Wood, Gil Kane,* and more.
- ***The Spirit: Angel Smerti TP,*** collecting ***The Spirit #s 1-7.***
- ***Superman: New Krypton Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Superman: World of New Krypton #s 1-5*** and ***Action Annual #10.***
- ***Titans: Villains for Hire TP,*** collecting ***Titans #s 24-27 & Villains for Hire Special #1.***
- ***Zatanna: Mistress of Magic TP,*** collecting ***Zatanna #s 1-6.***

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in February

Robbie Morrison & Trevor Hairsine launch ***Deux Ex,*** a six-part series based on the acclaimed PC game. Adam Jensen is a cybernetically enhanced security operative for the powerful Sarif Industries in a future where biological enhancements have become commonplace, yet fanatically opposed by many. While recovering the kidnapped niece of the founder of Sarif Industries, Jensen unstitches a mystery that goes all the way back to his fully human SWAT origins in Detroit – and an adventure of violence and betrayal that will span the globe!

WildStorm collected volumes (advance solicited for March and April release) include:

- ***Astro City: Shining Stars HC,*** collecting ***Astro City: Astra #s 1 & 2, Astro City: Silver Agent #s 1 & 2,*** and ***Astro City: Beautie #1.***
- ***Ex Machina Deluxe Edition Book Five HC,*** collecting ***Ex Machina #s 41-50*** and ***Ex Machina Special #4.***
- ***Wildcats Version 3.0 Year Two TP,*** collecting ***Wildcats Version 3.0 #s 13-24.***
- ***God of War TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***World of Warcraft Book Three TP,*** collecting ***World of Warcraft #s 15-21.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo in February

"What causes terrorism?" That's the question that haunts Aaron Goodman after his fiancee's death on 9/11. It makes him give up his career as a doctor to become an interrogator at Guantanamo Bay. It leads him to meme theory, as he wonders if there could be a cold science behind the conversion of people into suicide bombers. And ultimately, it brings him to Ahmed, a Gitmo prisoner who promises the answers to all of Aaron's questions, and in the process, he'll take Aaron from Guantanamo Bay to the jihadist camps in Pakistan, back to Ground Zero in New York City. But where do Ahmed's real loyalties lie? From where did that loyalty spring? To answer that, Aaron will have to reexamine everything he believes, and stare down one of the most compelling questions of the 21st century. Follow Aaron on his odyssey in ***Aaron & Ahmed,*** an orignal graphic novel by MacArthur Prize fellow *Jay Cantor* and artist *James Romberger.*

Scott Snyder and guest artist *Danijel Zezelj* present a lost tale of Skinner Sweet in ***American Vampire #12.*** It's 1924 when the first American vampire crosses paths with a Wild West show featuring some old pals and enemies from his outlaw days – and he is not happy. From the dying West to flying biplanes, we see how Skinner adjusts to life in the 20th century.

Fabletown's favorite secret-agent and bon vivant Cinderella is back on the job again in ***Cinderella: Fables Are Forever,*** a six-part series by *Chris Roberson & Shawn McManus.* Someone is killing sorcerers out on the Farm, and all signs point to Cinderella's arch-nemesis from the old days. The only problem is, Cinderella has always believed that her nemesis has been dead for years...

Jack of Fables comes to an end with its 50th issue as *Bill Willingham, Matthew Sturges, Tony Akins, Andrew Pepoy, Russ Braun, & Jose Marzan Jr.* wrap up all the dangling plot threads. Does Jack Frost slay Jack Dragon? Does Jack Dragon eat his own kid? Will the Page Sisters rebuild the Great Library? Will Gary finally get to sing a show tune on Broadway? It's all in this special oversized issue!

Bill Willingham, Mark Buckingham, & Steve Leialoha launch the new five-part "Super Group" story arc in ***Fables #102.*** Why has Pinocchio suddenly got it into his head that he needs to design tight-fitting costumes for a carefully selected small team of Fables? In fact, why is he going through his comic book collection for inspiration? All will be revealed...

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for March and April release) include:

- ***The Bronx Kill TP,*** a softcover version of the original crime tale by *Peter Milligan & James Romberger.*
- ***Demo Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Demo v2 #s 1-6.***
- ***iZombie Volume 1: Dead to the World TP,*** collecting ***iZombie #s 1-5*** and a story from ***House of Mystery Halloween Annual #1.***

Peter Milligan & Simon Bisley present a standalone tale in ***Hellblazer @276*** that begins when property developer unveils plans to bulldoze Constantine's long-time Brixton home.

- ***Hellblazer Volume 1: Original Sins TP New Edition,*** the first in a series of numbered editions of ***Hellblazer TPs,*** this one reprinting

Swamp Thing #s 76-77 and ***Hellblazer #s 1-9.***

- ***The Unwritten Volume 3: Dead Man's Knock TP,*** collecting ***The Unwritten #s 13-18.***
- ***Y—The Last Man Deluxe Edition Book Five HC,*** collecting ***Y #s 49-60.***

Coming From DC Direct in July

Batman Inc. jumps from the comic book shelves to the toy racks with the release of ***Batman Inc. Action Figures Series One,*** which includes ***Batman: Knight, Batman: Man of Bats, Damian as Robin,*** and ***Batman.*** All four figures feature multiple points of articulation and include a display base.

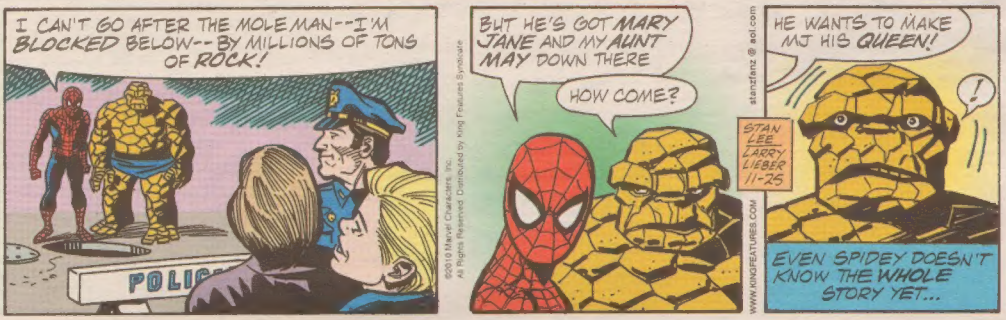
The art of *David Finch* is the inspiration for the next ***Batman Black and White Statue.*** The cold-cast ***Batman by David Finch*** statue stands 6.5" tall and is painted in monochromatic tones.

Steve Kiwus does the sculpting honors on the ***All-Star Superman DVD Superman Maquette.*** The hand-painted, cold-cast porcelain maquette is based on art from the Warner Home Video made-for-DVD animated original movie ***All-Star Superman,*** which is in turn based on the *Grant Morrison-Frank Quitely* twelve-part series.

Blackest Night continues in bust form with the release of the ***Heroes of the DC Universe Blackest Night Black Lantern Firestorm Bust,*** sculpted by *Jean St. Jean* from art by *Ivan Reis.*

DC Direct continues its 1:4 scale power battery offerings with the ***Blackest Night: Violet Lantern 1:4 Scale Power Battery and Ring Prop Replica Set,*** which includes a 1:4 scale light-up battery and a light-up ring prop replica.

The art of *Adam Hughes* is the inspiration for the ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe Hawkgirl Statue,*** sculpted by *Jack Mathews.*


I CAN'T GO AFTER THE MOLE MAN--I'M BLOCKED BELOW--BY MILLIONS OF TONS OF ROCK!
POLIC
BUT HE'S GOT MARY JANE AND MY AUNT MAY DOWN THERE
HOW COME?
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HE WANTS TO MAKE MJ HIS QUEEN!
!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-25
EVEN SPIDEY DOESN'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY YET...

The ***Superman Family Multi-Part Statue*** line continues with ***Part 2: Supergirl and Steel.*** This multi-figure set also includes the lower half of Superman and eagle base detail. Combine it with last month's multi-part ***Superman Family*** offering and you have a five-figure diorama that includes the entire Man of Steel.

DC's ***Ultimate Showdown*** series, depicting some of the most famous confrontations in comics history, continues with the release of the ***Ultimate Showdown Batman Vs. the Joker Set,*** deigned and sculpted by *Tim Bruckner.* Each character is displayed on a specially designed stand-alone base intended to "interact" with the other statues in the series and to be displayed in a myriad of ways. The statues can pivot independently on their bases and rotate their heads to customize and direct the action. Mix and match them with other statues in the series to create your own showdown or combine them all in one ultimate battle statue.

Coming Comics—Marvel in February

Marvel promises that ***Amazing Spider-Man #654*** will deliver a major occurrence that will have repercussions for Peter Parker and friends for years to come. Whatever it is, it continues into ***Amazing Spider-Man #655,*** an extra-length *Dan Slott* issue featuring art by *Marcos Martin* in which Peter makes a choice—a promise—that even he might not be able to fulfill.

Meanwhile, Marvel offers a great jumping-on point for new readers with ***Amazing Spider-Man #654.1,*** in which *Dan Slott & Paulo Siqueira* introduce a new webslinger as the Venom symbiote stakes out a new host—and this webslinger is showing Peter Parker up in the hero department!

When the strange and deadly Arcade decides to rebuild his ruined reputation, he sets his sights on the members of the Avengers Academy and the Young Allies. When one of his teenage victims escapes, is it a setback for Arcade, or all part of his master plan to turn the entirety of New York into...Murderworld? Find out in ***Arcade: Death Game,*** a three-part miniseries by *Paul Tobin & David Baldeon.*

What are monsters afraid of? *Daniel Way & Jason Pearson* answer that question as they send the X-Men to Monster Island in ***Astonishing X-Men #36.***

The Infinity Gauntlet is back! Do the Avengers have what it takes to stop it? Find out in ***Avengers #10*** by *Brian Bendis & John Romita Jr.*

Finesse goes in search of the man who could be her father—Taskmaster—in ***Avengers Academy #9*** by *Christos Gage & Sean Chen.*

Marvel explores the history of latter-day ***Avengers, Thor,*** and ***Captain America*** in ***Avengers, Thor, & Captain America: Official Index to the Marvel Universe #10.***

Cable is dead, and no one's more devastated than his old friend and partner, Deadpool. So how does he honor him? By transforming Rumekistan into a massive tribute to his old pal. Witness the absurdity in ***Deadpool & Cable #26*** by *Duane Swierczynski & Leo Fernandez.*

Marvel digs deep into its files of unpublished tales for ***Doctor Strange: From the Marvel Vault #1*** by *Roger Stern & Neil Vokes,* a tale that explores the mysterious secrets of Doctor Strange's Bleecker Street sanctum sanctorum.

In the aftermath of the death of one of its members, *Jonathan Hickman & Nick Dragotta* reveal how the remaining members of the Fantastic Four, the extended family, other heroes, and prominent villains react to the loss of this legendary hero. Witness that reaction in ***Fantastic Four #588.***

Orson Scott Card's ***Ender's Game*** saga continues with ***Formic Wars: Burning Earth,*** a seven-part prequel by Card with *Aaron Johnston & Giancarlo Caracuzzo.* An unidentified ship is rocketing toward Earth with tech far beyond anything we've ever seen… and the only people who can give warning are a small band of asteroid miners millions of miles from home.

Are we alone in the universe? This February, the United Nations Space Command learns the answer to that question… and unfortunately, the answer is ***no.*** Find out why that's bad news in *Brian Reed & Felix Ruiz* adaptation of *Eric Nylund's* novel ***Halo: Fall of Reach—Covenant.***

In the aftermath of ***Widowmaker,*** Hawkeye's view of the world around him has changed; witness how he adjusts in ***Hawkeye: Blind Spot,*** a four-parter written by *Jim McCann.*

Ed McGuinness returns as guest illustrator for ***Hulk #30*** as a classic enemy returns—an enemy who can only be defeated by... the Compound Hulk?...

Hulk and Skaar invade the prehistoric paradise of Ka-Zar, Lord of the Hidden Jungle, in ***Incredible Hulks #623*** by *Greg Pak* and new artist *Dale Eaglesham,* who's making his Hulky return.

Iron Man #500.1 is a part of Marvel's special "Point One" program that indicates perfect jumping-on points complete with new-reader-friendly storylines. This issue's tale by *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca* follows Tony Stark as he takes his first steps into the future! Learn what it means to be Iron Man

in the 21st Century in a tale that sets the stage for the most action packed story in ol' Shellhead's life—a tale that begins in ***Iron Man #501,*** also slated to ship in February.

Lt. Col. James Rhodes is War Machine… the single most advanced one-man weapon of conventional combat. But wars aren't fought the way they used to be – and when Rhodey has to face a mysterious enemy he can't shoot, can't bomb, can't even see, he's going to be forced to evolve… or die. Witness his transition in ***Iron Man 2.0,*** an all-new ongoing series by *Nick Spencer & Barry Kitson.*

Josh Fialkov & Nuno Plati take readers back to the early days of the X-Men with ***Marvel Girl #1,*** a tale focusing on Jean Grey's earliest days as a part of Professor Xavier's group of gifted students.

What deep dark secret has Nick Fury held for all of these decades and how has it come back to terrorize everyone?! *Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato* reveal the answers in ***New Avengers #9,*** the first installment of "Infinity"—and *Howard Chaykin* does the art honors on the Nick Fury flashback sequences.

A tear in the barrier between the Marvelverse and the Negative Zone paves the way for Onslaught's return to the world he terrorized once before... and he'll have Nomad to thank for it! Find out how and

HEY, WAIT! I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING AFTER THE MOLE MAN!
RELAX, WEB-HEAD- WE ARE!
4
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THE ONE PLACE HE'D HIDE OUT WOULD BE HIS PALACE--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-26
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--UNDER THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE!

why in ***Onslaught Unleashed,*** a four-part series by *Sean McKeever & Filipe Andrade* that co-stars the Secret Avengers and the Young Allies.

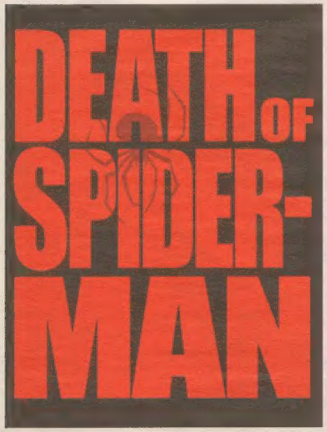
When Danny Rand transformed his multinational corporation into a non-profit foundation, he thought he had left fighting behind—but he learns that's not the case in ***Power Man & Iron Fist,*** a five-part series by *Fred Van Lente & Wellington Alves.* Their first case is Luke Cage and Danny Rand's former secretary Jennie Royce, imprisoned for a murder she didn't commit… or did she?

The sentinel of the spaceways returns, courtesy of *Greg Pak & Stephen Segovia,* in ***Silver Surfer #1,*** the kickoff issue of a five-part tale that finds the Surfer caught up in the High Evolutionary's mysterious grand design.

Take a time-travel trip back to the 80s in ***Super Hero Squad Spectacular #1.*** The God-like entity known only as The Beyonder sets his sights on the Squad… teleporting them to his own private Prison Planet to do battle with the villains for his own amusement!

The ***Powers*** team of *Brian Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming* launch a new all-ages graphic novel series with ***Takio GN,*** which tells the story of two sisters in a multiracial, adoptive family who are driving each other insane! Their overprotective mother makes them walk to school together, eat lunch together, and play together. They can't get away from each other!! But when a one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-lifetime accident gives them real-life superpowers, these two sisters become the first actual superheroes in the entire world.

The ultimate enemy has revealed himself to be Reed Richards!!! And in *Brian Bendis & Rafa Sandoval's* ***Ultimate Comics Doom #3,*** the entire Ultimate Universe must band together and stop their old friend from becoming the worst villain the world has ever seen.



"The Death of Spider-Man" begins in February's ***Ultimate Spider-Man #153,*** moves into ***Ultimate Avengers Vs. New Ultimates #1,*** and continues in the subsequent issues of both titles. *Brian Bendis* is writing the ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** installments, while *Mark Millar* is doing the honors on the ***Ultimate Avengers Vs. New Ultimates*** issues.

Venom/Deadpool #1 collects the backup tale from December's five ***What If?*** oneshots that reveals what would happen if the Venom symbiote possessed Deadpool.

In the new-reader-friendly ***Wolverine #5.1,*** a part of Marvel's "Point One" initiative, readers can join in the celebration of the most dangerous birthday in the Marvel Universe when Wolverine's new girlfriend invites X-Men and Avengers alike to a surprise party for
everyone's favorite mutant.

Wolverine #1000 takes readers from the bayou to the Mojoverse and beyond in an eighty-page oneshot collection of tales by *Jimmy Palmiotti, Rick Spears, Luke Ross,* and many more.

"Age of X" kicks off in ***X-Men Legacy #245,*** courtesy of *Mike Carey & Clay Mann.* In a world where the X-Men never existed and mutantkind has been hunted to extinction, the few remaining mutants band together to make their last stand. Who are they? And just how far will they go to survive? The drama continues in ***New Mutants #22*** as the mutants discover a conspiracy within the walls of their fortress that threatens their downfall.

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Avengers & the Infinity Gauntlet GN,*** a smaller-size collection of the four-issue miniseries plus the first issue of the original ***Infinity Gauntlet.***
- ***Avengers: West Coast Avengers—Family Ties Premiere HC,*** collecting ***West Coast Avengers #s 1-9*** and ***Vision & Scarlet Witch #s 1-2.***
- ***Captain America Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** an 856-page collection that includes Cap tales from ***Tales of Suspense #s 59-99, Captain America #s 100-113,*** and ***Not Brand Echh #3,*** featuring work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, George Tuska, Jim Steranko,* and many others.
- ***Captain America: Patriot TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries, ***What If? #4,*** and ***All-Winners Comics 70th Anniversary Special.***
- ***Captain America: Scourge of the Underworld TP,*** collecting ***Marvel Fanfare #29, Amazing Spider-Man #278, USAgent #1-4;*** and material from ***Captain America #318-320 & #358-362.***
- ***Captain America: To Serve & Protect Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Captain America (1998) #s 1-7.***
- ***Daffodil TP,*** collecting ***Daffodil #s 1-3.***
- ***Daken: Dark Wolverine—Empire Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Dark Wolverine #90, Daken: Dark Wolverine #s 1-4,*** and more.
- ***Dark Tower: Treachery TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.
- ***Deadpool: Merc with a Mouth—Head Trip TP,*** collecting ***Merc with a Mouth #s 1-13.***
- ***Husk TP,*** collecting the two-part series.
- ***Incredible Hulks: Dark Son—Enigma Force TP,*** collecting ***Realm of Kings: Son of Hulk #s 1-4*** and ***Enigma Force #s 1-3.***
- ***Invincible Iron Man Volume 5: Stark Resilient Book 1 TP,*** collecting ***Invincible Iron Man #s 25-28.***
- ***Invincible Iron Man Volume 6: Stark Resilient Book 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Invincible Iron Man #s 29-33.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Jungle Adventure Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Jungle Tales #s 1-4, Jungle Action #s 1-3,*** and ***Lorna the Jungle Girl #s 10-12.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Volume 10 HC,*** collecting ***Thor #s 184-194*** by *Stan Lee, Gerry Conway, & John Buscema.*
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Journey Into Mystery #s 101-110.***
- ***Marvelman Classic Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Marvelman #s 35-44.***
- ***Marvelman Family's Finest Premiere HC,*** collecting the six-issue limited series and the ***Primer.***
- ***Namor: The First Mutant Volume 1—Curse of the Mutants TP,*** collecting ***Namor #s 1-4.***
- ***Namor Visionaries: John Byrne Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Namor (1990) #s 1-9.***
- ***New Avengers Volume 6 HC,*** collecting ***New Avengers #s 48-54*** and more.
- ***New Mutants Forever TP,*** collecting ***New Mutants Forever #s 1-5*** and the original ***New Mutants #s 53-54,*** the final *Chris Claremont* issues.
- ***Shadowland Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Shadowland #s 1-5*** and more.
- ***Shadowland: Thunderbolts Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 148-151.***
- ***Shadowland: Daredevil Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 508-512*** and more.
- ***Shadowland: Street Fighters Premiere HC,*** collecting the ***Shadowland: Daughters of the Shadow*** miniseries and the ***Bullseye, Elektra, Ghost Rider,*** and ***Spider-Man*** oneshots.
- ***Spider-Woman: Agent of S.W.O.R.D. TP,*** collecting the seven-part series.
- ***The Stand: Hardcases Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***The Thanos Imperative HC,*** collecting the six-part limited series, the bookend oneshots, and more.
- ***Ultimate Comics Thor Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics Thor #s 1-4.***
- ***Ultimatum Companion HC,*** collecting ***Ultimate FF #s 58-60 & Requiem; Ultimate Spider-Man #s 129-133 & Requiem #s 1-2; Ultimate X-Men #s 98-100 & Requiem; March on Ultimatum Saga,*** and ***Marvel Spotlight: Ultimatum.***
- ***Wolverine: Wolverine Goes to Hell Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 1-5*** and more.
- ***X-Factor: Happenings in Vegas Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Factor #s 207-212.***
- ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men #s 1-6*** and more.
- ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants—Mutants Vs. Vampires Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants — Storm & Gambit, X-Men: Curse of the Mutants — Smoke And Blood, X-Men: Curse of the Mutants — Blade*** and ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants — X-Men Vs. Vampires #1-2.***
- ***X-Men: Alpha Flight Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men & Alpha Flight (1995) #s 1 & 2; X-Men/Alpha Flight (1998) #s 1 & 2;*** and ***X-Men #s 109, 120-121, & 139-140.***
- ***X-Men: First Class Volume 1 GN,*** a smaller-trim-size collection of ***X-Men: First Class #s 1, 2,, 4, 5, 7,*** and the ***2007 Special.***
- ***X-Men Legacy: Collision Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men Legacy #s 238-241.***
- ***Young Allies TP,*** collecting ***Young Allies #s 1-6, Firestar #1,*** and more.

- ***X-Men Forever 2 Volume 2: Scream a Little Scream TP,*** collecting ***X-Men Forever 2 #s 6-10.***
- ***Astonishing X-Men Volume 6: Exogenetic TP,*** collecting ***Astonishing X-Men #s 31-35*** and more.
- ***Spider-Man: The Gauntlet Volume 5—Lizard TP,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 630-633*** and more.
- ***Spider-Man: Grim Hunt TP,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 634-637*** and more.
- ***Spider-Man: Animal Magnetism TP,*** collecting a variety of offbeat Spider-Man (and Spider-Ham!) tales.
- ***Vampire Tales Volume 2 GN,*** a smaller-trim-size collection of ***Vampire Tales #s 4-7.***
- ***Thor: Tales of ASgard TP,*** collecting the recolored six-issue compilation of *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* Silver Age tales.

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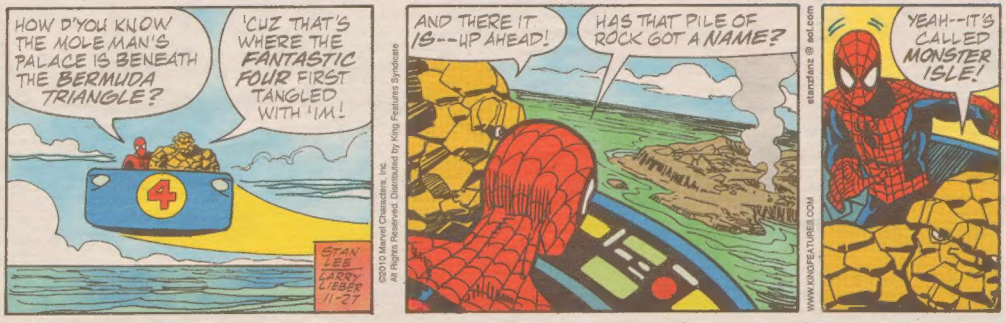
HOW D'YOU KNOW THE MOLE MAN'S PALACE IS BENEATH THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE?
'CUZ THAT'S WHERE THE FANTASTIC FOUR FIRST TANGLED WITH 'IM!
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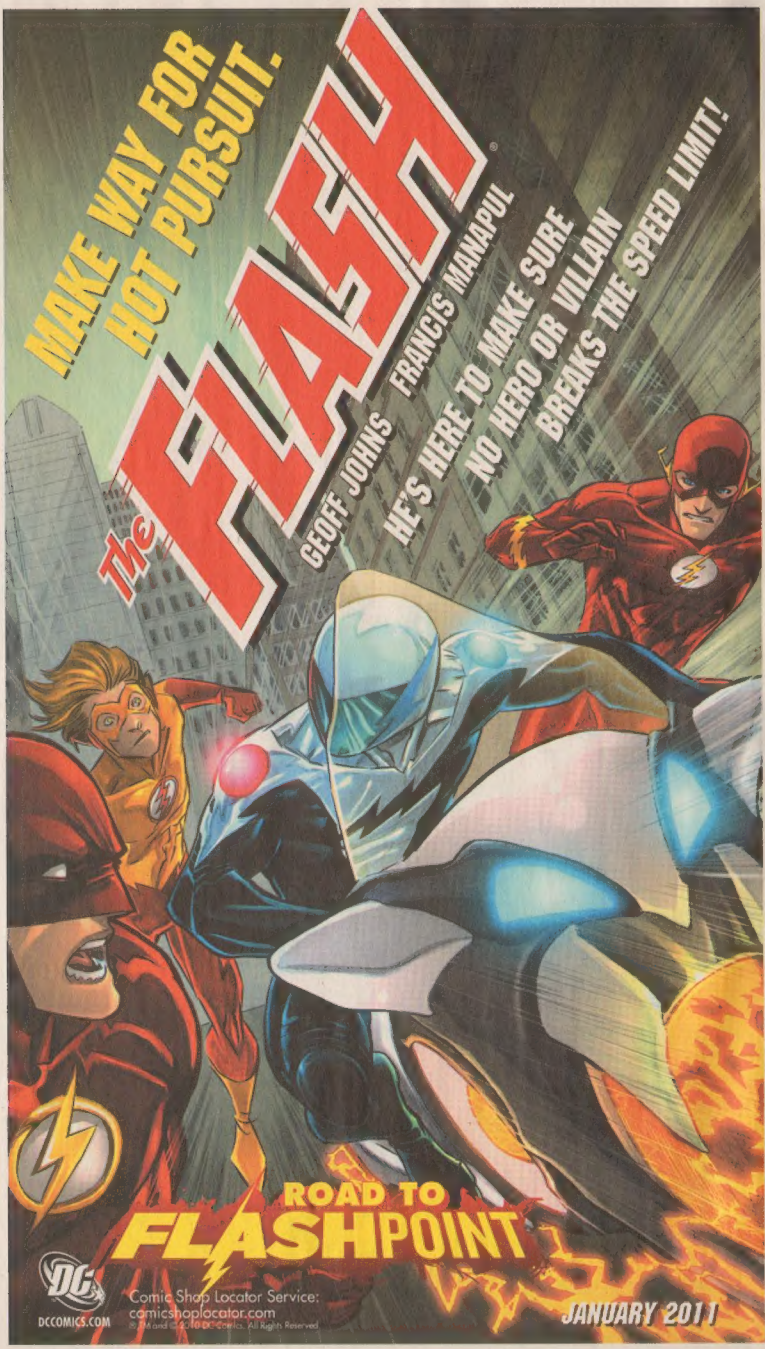

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